



TYPE OF MEETING MINUTES: Monthly  
DATE OF MEETING: Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
PLACE OF MEETING: Dennis Memorial Library  
TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:35 P.M.

MEMBER ATTENDEES: Rebecca Blair, Amy Usowski (Annie), Mary Hastings (Millie),  
Brian Hastings, Susan Harrington (Cindy), Joanne Soraghan (Bella), Wes Blair,  
Anne Thomas (Sophie), Marilyn Rose Guarino (Scarlett), Tony Quinn (Bogey), Amy Crocker (Talle),  
Cady VanSciver (Violet), Bill Norman (Skye)

New Members - David Gorbach (Sprinkles), Gabrielle Scholsky, and Amy Proctor

BY ZOOM: We did not use ZOOM for this meeting

SPEAKER: Laird Anthony - Rock Harbor Respite & Orleans Council on Aging

1. Amy and Rebecca welcomed our new and prospective members: Amy Proctor, David Gorbach and Gabrielle Scholsky
2. Laird Anthony from Rock Harbor Respite gave us his feelings on what Hearts & Paws visits meant to his clients:
  - a. A 30 minute+ session worked well because some of the clients became anxious if an event was too long
  - b. Many days there was a lot of agitation with the clients in the afternoon before the dogs arrived but he could clearly see the behaviors change when the dogs arrived
  - c. As handlers react with clients, they need to have patience and recognize cues from the clients. This interaction is very important too.
  - d. Clients liked to tell stories of their past dogs
  - e. There is one more activity after the dogs leave and he feels that the clients are much more engaged on those days.
  - f. Laird enjoyed the visits with the dogs almost more than anyone else !!

General Meeting:

1. Visitation Sites (new and in progress):
  - a. Wellfleet Adult Community Center – 3 visits so far, Dec 29<sup>th</sup> session with vets
  - b. Eastham Library – Librarian would like to set up regular visits (1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of month)
  - c. Lilly House – Still in the works → They will let us know when they want us.
  - d. Alzheimer's Family Support Center in the Mall is going well
  - e. Harwich – some "special event" visits like "Puppy Love" Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Brewster does not want to combine with Harwich
  - f. Falmouth School starting up again (weekly to all 4 elementary schools)
  - g. Falmouth Hospital visits are ongoing

h. Harwich Christmas Stroll – fundraised for Cape Kids meals



- i. Hyannis Home and Garden Show ?? Sat. March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Youth and Community Center but no booth ??
- j. Working on Sandwich School & Mashpee (Mayflower Place)
- k. Yarmouth Senior Center is a possibility. They have a new director.

2. **Bella just passed her exam !** We now have 22 certified dogs !!! (YEAH !!!)



3. Open Discussion:

- a. There is a Girl Scout Program for kids to earn badges. Do we participate ?
- b. PLEASE let us know if you want to continue where you are visiting or would like to commit to a different venue
- c. Orientation Meeting next Tuesday (11/28) 6:30 in the Dennis Library

4. Meeting adjourned 7:45

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary & Brian Hastings*